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AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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NASS IDAHO FIELD OFFICE LAUNCHES REDESIGNED AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS WEB SITE

WASHINGTON, Dec. 8, 2005 – The Idaho Field Office of USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) today launched its newly redesigned web site, www.nass.usda.gov/id/. With a click of the mouse, there is now more agricultural data available at your fingertips. The entire NASS web site, including pages for its 46 field offices, has been completely revamped to better serve the needs of NASS customers, whether farmers, researchers, government officials, journalists, teachers or others.

“NASS continues to strive to meet the needs of all of our data users. The new www.nass.usda.gov/id/ site will further our mission by providing a user-friendly and abundant resource of statistics in service to Idaho agriculture,” said Bill Meyer, director of the NASS Idaho Field Office.

“Anyone interested in Idaho or U.S. agriculture will find that the new site is not only informative and easy to use, but that it makes the most of the latest technology,” added Meyer. “The NASS web development team incorporated a variety of web based tools to enhance the site’s usability and enrich its content.”

Technological enhancements include a new Google-powered search engine, an SVG interactive mapping application, an RSS news feed and XML technology. To complete the redesign effort, the site also received a new look and feel to mirror the official USDA web site.

At the same time, the site continues to provide comprehensive statistical data on Idaho agriculture. Features such as the Quick Stats Agricultural Statistics Database provide the most up-to-date state and county agricultural statistics. Data users can search for state and county level data by commodity and easily download information for use in a database or spreadsheet.

Data users of Idaho agricultural statistics are encouraged to bookmark the site and visit it often, as it will be frequently updated with new information. USDA reports, such as the monthly Crop Production publication, will continue to be available online just minutes after release. Additionally, up-to-date information on surveys currently being conducted in Idaho, as well as upcoming initiatives such as the 2007 Census of Agriculture, is just a click away.